

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

ELIZABETH KLC, DIRECTOR • (801) 538-1921 • <https://justice.utah.gov/usaav/>

## USA AV+ Council Mission and Duties

The mission of the Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory (USA AV+) Council is to create and coordinate a comprehensive strategy to eliminate substance use and mental health disorders throughout Utah.

The Council's statutory duties (§63M-7-301 through 306) are to:

- Provide leadership and generate unity for Utah's ongoing efforts to reduce and eliminate the impact of substance use and mental health disorders in Utah through a comprehensive and evidence-based prevention, treatment, and justice strategy;
- Recommend and coordinate the creation, dissemination, and implementation of statewide policies to address substance use and mental health disorders;
- Facilitate planning for a balanced continuum of substance use and mental health disorder prevention, treatment, and justice services;
- Promote collaboration and mutually beneficial public and private partnerships;
- Analyze and provide an objective assessment of all proposed legislation concerning substance use, mental health, and related issues;
- Oversee the implementation and evaluation of Utah's Drug-related Offenses Reform Act (DORA);
- Monitor the use of beer tax funds annually distributed to municipalities and counties for purposes of alcohol- and substance abuse-related law enforcement, prevention, treatment, detection, prosecution, and control to ensure compliance with the statute (§32B-2-404 and 405);
- Oversee Utah's Underage Drinking Prevention Media Campaign, ParentsEmpowered.org (§32B-2-306);
- Oversee coordination for the funding, implementation, and evaluation of suicide prevention efforts described in Section 62A-15-1101; and
- Report recommendations annually to the Governor, Legislature, Judicial Council, and Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice.

## USA AV+ Council 2020 Ruminations

The Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Council (USA AV+) had a monumental year. With all of the challenges that came with the COVID-19 pandemic, a new USA AV+ Director, an ever-changing political landscape, a new governor, and many, many, MANY opportunities for personal, professional, and community reflection, I want to share with our Council Members and the public: THANK YOU. Thank you for your messages of encouragement, your patience, and for a great year for the USA AV+ Council and its members.

Amidst Zoom meetings, WebEx presentations, Google Meets, and .... I am sure I forgot a platform; we have adjusted as a Council. The Capitol complex closed to the public and most of the employees, we moved all of our meetings online, and I worked from home with two toddlers.

Thank you. Because of the nature of our work and the reason you all serve on the Council, I know you met with numerous other challenges. Bigger challenges than I could imagine. You all met challenges with strong shoulders and smiles on your face. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your sleepless night and your endless days.

We are all adjusting to the next stage and with an unprecedented Legislative Session underway, we will see more changes in 2021. I have learned, experienced, and come to a better understanding about what USA AV+ Council is and means to this community. I know that things remain unsettled, that we have new challenges ahead, and that we don't know the final picture, but I am confident in USA AV+ Council and the good things that we can accomplish together. Thank you for your support and thank you for your continued work.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Klc

January 2021

## USAAV+ 2020 Legislative Priorities

The 2020 Utah Legislature passed the following USAAV+ priority bills and appropriations:



***Behavior Health Workforce Reinvestment Initiative, sponsored by Senator Deidre Henderson.*** In order to help address the critical shortage of behavioral health workers, the USAAV+ Council proposed expanding the capacity of Utah State University and University of Utah's of Master of Social Work. The USAAV+ Council also proposed to expand the University of Utah's College of Nursing Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program by 4 students per year, as well as expanding the telehealth consultation program and services at the South Main Street Clinic.

To incentivize current students and address the workforce crisis immediately, the USAAV+ Counsel proposed that all of Utah's graduating master's level degree or higher students who commit to work in Utah for three years at a public facility or program would receive a tuition loan repayment for qualifying loans. Degree/programs would include: APRN, MSW, MFT, CMHC, and Psychology – all requiring licensure by the State of Utah to practice.

In total, Senator Henderson sponsored \$1.2M in ongoing funds to be appropriated to the participating universities (University of Utah and Utah State University) to sponsor statewide programs. The Office of Primary Care and Rural Health Office received \$2M one-time funding to create the Behavioral Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program. Although new programs were not funded during the Sixth Special Session of the Utah Legislature, legislators recognized the importance of this funding

***1<sup>st</sup> Sub H.B. 342 – Mental Health Insurance Requirements*** by Rep. Brian King. This bill creates reporting requirements for an insurer that provides a health benefit plan, prohibits certain insurers from imposing a nonquantitative treatment limitation on

mental health benefits and substance use disorder benefits, and creates a reporting requirement.



## Utah's Underage Drinking Prevention Campaign

ParentsEmpowered.org is a media and education campaign funded by the Utah Legislature and designed to prevent and reduce underage drinking in Utah by providing parents and guardians with information about the harmful effects of alcohol on the developing teen brain, along with proven skills for preventing underage alcohol use.

This award-winning campaign is in its 17<sup>th</sup> year on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The USAAV+ Underage Drinking Prevention Workgroup continues to meet weekly to guide development of campaign materials and oversee local community partnership projects.

With its strong foundation of research showing **parental disapproval is the #1 reason youth choose not to drink**, Parents Empowered focuses on educating parents and other influential adults about the harmful effects of alcohol on the developing teen brain, along with proven skills for preventing underage alcohol use, including **BONDING** with children through



daily, positive interaction; setting clear **BOUNDARIES** and limitations, including rules about underage drinking; and **MONITORING** kids' activities by asking direct questions and ensuring their environment is alcohol-free.

While a challenging year with a changing budget and trying to address the youth that were going through major challenges with school, socialization, and a LOT OF time at home, the Underage Drinking Prevention Campaign really stepped up and worked hard to ensure that the media campaign, the local authorities, and the coalitions had support and could operate the best possible programs with the resources available.

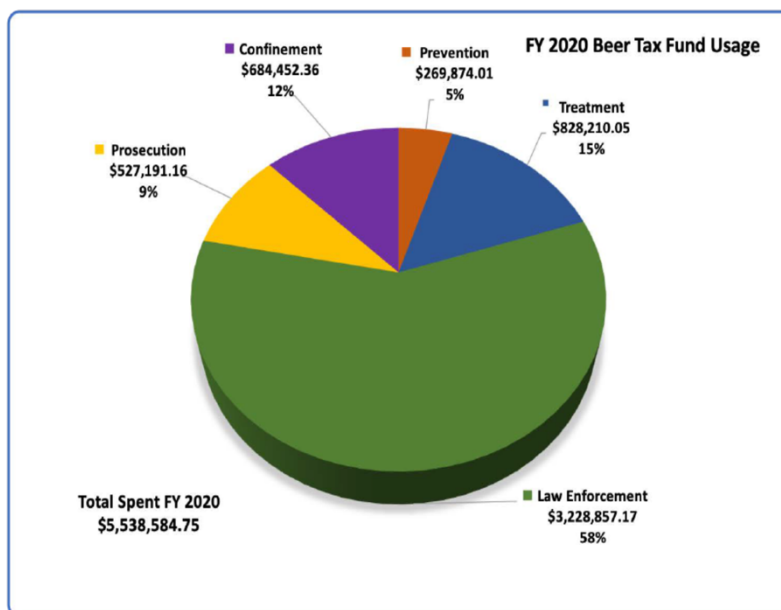
The current media campaign focuses on the relationship that parents have with their children and the influence they can have with discouraging their children from underage drinking.

The 2020 Parents Empowered Annual Report can be found here: <https://parentsempowered.org/about/>

## FY 2020 Beer Tax Funds

The USAAV+ Council monitors the use of beer tax monies distributed annually by the Utah State Tax Commission to Utah's municipalities and counties from the *Alcoholic Beverage and Substance Abuse Enforcement and Treatment Restricted Account* for alcohol- and drug-related activities (§32B-4-4, Utah Code).

The Legislature appropriated \$5,538,584.75 for the fiscal year 2020. The figure to the right shows how beer tax funds were utilized during FY 2020. The figure below was presented to the USAAV+ Council on total net distribution, dollars spent, and carryover dollars. The USAAV+ Council has committed to continuing conversations about best uses of Beer Tax Funds and how to work with all the parties to increase the usefulness to address alcohol and substance use issues in municipalities and counties.



Note: The amounts expended may not add up to the FY 2020 appropriation due to Tax Commission distribution fees, as well as inclusion of funds carried over from the previous fiscal year(s) and/or unexpended FY 2019 funds carried over to FY 2020.

TOTAL NET DISTRIBUTION					
FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY20 CHANGE FROM FY19
\$5,390,261.85	\$5,404,755.95	\$5,597,400.00	\$5,854,419.95	\$5,575,608.00	- \$278,811.95

TOTAL DOLLARS SPENT					
FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY20 CHANGE FROM FY19
\$4,940,803.83	\$5,686,870.81	\$5,181,434.13	\$5,665,733.11	\$5,538,584.75	- \$127,148.36

TOTAL CARRYOVER DOLLARS					
FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY20 CHANGE FROM FY19
\$1,409,262.16	\$1,479,899.08	\$1,674,991.72	\$1,853,980.92	\$1,857,526.42	+ \$3,545.50

## 2020 Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory (USAAV+) Council Members

**Commissioner Jess Anderson**

*Commissioner of Public Safety*

**Judge James Blanch**

*District Court Drug Court Judge*

**Janae Duncan**

*Executive Director of the Department of Health's Designee*

**Dr. Karen Buchi**

**Ann Williamson**

*Co-Chairs, Drug Endangered Children Committee*

**Daniel Burton**

*Attorney General's Designee*

**Dennis Cecchinni**

*Resident Who Has Been Personally Affected by a Substance Use or Mental Health Disorder*

**Kim Cordova**

*Executive Director, Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice*

**Santiago Cortez**

*Chair, Treatment Committee*

**Commissioner Bill Cox**

*Elected County Official*

**Dr. Michael Crookston**

*Representative of Treatment Professionals*

**Catherine Dupont**

*State Court Administrator's Designee*

**Patrick Fleming, CHAIR**

*Citizen Representative*

**Mark Foote, M.D.**

*Representative of the Physical Health Care Field*

**Mike Haddon**

*Executive Director, Utah Department of Corrections*

**Colonel Gary Harter**

*Military Service Member/Veteran*

**Brent Kelsey**

*Chair, Recovery Residences Committee*

**Clarissa Stebbing**

*State Superintendent of Public Instruction's Designee*

**Mayor Howard Madsen**

*Representative of Utah League of Cities and Towns*

**Judge Mary Manley**

*Juvenile Court Drug Court Judge*

**Mary Jo McMillen**

*Representative of a Statewide Advocacy Organization for Recovery from Substance Use Disorders*

**Deborah Kreeck Mendez**

*Criminal Defense Attorney*

**Diane Moore**

*Director, Utah Division of Child and Family Services*

**Kimberly Myers**

*Chair, Statewide Suicide Prevention Coalition*

**Sigrid Nolte**

*Co-Chair, Utah Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Committee*

**Margaret Olson**

*Prosecutor*

**Nubia Peña**

*Director, Division of Multicultural Affairs*

**Brett Peterson**

*Director, Division of Juvenile Justice Services*

**Denise Porter**

*Chair of Board of Pardons and Parole's Designee*

**Scott Reed, VICE CHAIR**

*Chair, Justice Committee*

**Chief Tom Ross**

*Representative of Local Law Enforcement Agencies*

**Doug Thomas**

*Director, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health*

**Rob Timmerman**

*Chair, UPAC/Prevention Committee*

**Judge Vernice Trease**

*District Court Mental Health Court Judge*

**Carlene Walker**

*Chair, DUI Committee*

**Rob Wesemann**

*Representative of a Statewide Advocacy Organization for Recovery from Mental Illness*

**Christina Zidow**

*Representative of Youth Services Providers*

**Sherri Witwer**

*Representative of a Statewide Advocacy Organization for Protection of Rights of Individuals with a Disability*

**Pending**

*Director, Division of Indian Affairs or Designee*

*Representative of Peer Support Specialist*

**Staff:**

**Elizabeth Klc** USAAV+ Council Director

**Morgan Williams.** USAAV+ Beer Tax Funds Program Manager

*Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice*

**Diana Bartley.** Administrative Assistant

*Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice*